

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] The invention relates to a device for humidifying at least one gas stream, in particular a gas stream flowing to a fuel cell system, ~~of the type defined in more detail in the preamble of Claim 1.~~

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0002]:

BACKGROUND

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0007]:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following amended paragraph:

[0007] ~~Therefore, the~~ An object of the present invention is to provide a simple apparatus of compact design and a method for humidifying at least one gas stream, in particular a gas stream flowing to a fuel cell system, in which it is possible to vary the dew point in the at least one gas stream that is to be humidified, and in particular to set it to a predetermined value.

Please delete paragraphs [0008], [0009], and [0010].

Please add new paragraphs [0010.1] and [0010.2] before paragraph [0011] as follows:

[0010.1] The present invention provides an apparatus for humidifying a gas stream that includes: a humidifier device including at least one membrane permeable to water vapor, wherein the gas stream and a humid gas stream flow through a humidifier device, the a gas stream and the humid gas stream being separated from one another by the at least one membrane; and at least one bypass line configured to route at least part of one of the gas stream and the humid gas stream so that it does not come into contact with the membrane.

[0010.2] Furthermore, the present invention provides a method for humidifying a gas stream. The method includes: flowing the gas stream through a humidifier having a membrane

permeable to water vapor; flowing a humid gas stream through the humidifier, the gas stream and the humid gas stream being separated by the membrane; routing at least a portion of one of the gas stream and the humid gas stream using a bypass line so that it does not come into contact with the membrane; and varying a quantity of the portion so as to set a predetermined dew point in the gas stream.

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0019]:

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0025] Further advantageous configurations of the invention will emerge from the ~~remaining subclaims~~ claims and are explained in more detail on the basis of the exemplary embodiment described below with reference to the drawings, in which:

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0028]:

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

#### **In the Abstract**

Please delete the Abstract as presented in the underlying International Application No. PCT/DE2003/02200 and replace it with the following new Abstract:

#### **ABSTRACT**

An apparatus for humidifying a gas stream includes a humidifier device having at least one membrane permeable to water vapor. The gas stream and a humid gas stream flow through a humidifier device, being separated from one another by the at least one membrane. The apparatus includes at least one bypass line configured to route at least part of one of the gas stream and the humid gas stream so that it does not come into contact with the membrane. In addition a method for humidifying a gas stream, includes flowing the gas stream through a humidifier having a membrane permeable to water vapor, flowing a humid gas stream through the humidifier separated by the membrane, and routing at least a portion of one of the gas stream and the humid gas stream using a bypass line so that it does not come into contact with the

membrane, and varying a quantity of the portion so as to set a predetermined dew point in the gas stream.